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EATON

FAMILY ASSOCIATION.

REPORT: 1888.

REPORT

OF THE

FIFTH ANNUAL REUNION

OF THE

EATON FAMILY ASSOCIATION

HELD AT BOSTON,

OCTOBER 31st, 1888.

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1888.

EATON FAMILY ASSOCIATION.

SECRETARY'S REPORT.

The fifth Reunion and sixth meeting of the Eaton Family Association was held in the Meionaon of Tremont Temple, in Boston, on Wednesday, October 31st, 1888. The members of the association continued to collect in the hall for an entire hour, from 10 to 11 o'clock. During this time badges were distributed to the various branches represented; white ribbon for the Plymouth Eatons; red for the Dedham branch; yellow for the members of the Haverhill family; blue for the descendants of Jonas of Reading, and pink to those who belonged to William of Reading. Much good will and heartiness of expression were displayed by the members present, as becometh those of kin and especially the Eaton Family.

The Association was called to order at half past 11 o'clock by the President, Rev. Dr. William H. Eaton of Keene, N. H., and the meeting was opened by the singing of one verse of the hymn,—

"All Hail, the power of Jesus' name."

The Rev. Herrick M. Eaton, of Middleboro, Mass., then offered prayer. A committee of enrollment, consisting of Daniel A. Eaton, Ebenezer Ferren and Rev. Irving C. Tomlinson, was appointed to obtain the names and addresses of those present. Mr. Stephen B. Eaton of Concord, N. H., was appointed to attend to the sale of tickets for dinner.

The report of the secretary, Prof. Daniel C. Eaton of New Haven, Conn., was read and approved. It made special mention of the kindness of Miss Thomas, who sang at the previous gathering, and of the validity of the proof then offered by Mr. William L. Eaton that Jonas and William Eaton of Reading were brothers. The treasurer's report, from Edward B. Eaton of Boston, here followed, which presented for the year past as

Income,	.	.	.	.	\$507.86
Expenses,	.	.	.	.	202.31
And a Balance in Treasury of				.	\$305.55

It was voted to accept it when audited and found correct, as this formality had not been attended to. The following gentlemen were appointed a committee on nominations :

Rev. SILVANUS HAYWARD, of *Globe Village, Mass.*
 Prof. DANIEL C. EATON, of *New Haven.*
 Rev. H. M. EATON, of *Middleboro'.*
 Mr. EVERETT W. EATON, of *Wakefield.*

The reports of the genealogists of the various branches were then presented in alphabetical order. (These reports have been revised since the meeting, and are printed in full at the end of this general report.)

The committee on nominations reported, and moved that the officers for the past year be re-elected, which was done by uplifted hands.

OFFICERS CHOSEN IN 1888.

PRESIDENT.

Rev. WILLIAM H. EATON, D.D., *Keene, N. H.*

VICE-PRESIDENTS.

Rev. EPHRAIM L. EATON, *La Crosse, Wisconsin.*
 Hon. DORMAN B. EATON, *New York, N. Y.*
 Rev. CHARLES H. EATON, D.D., *New York, N. Y.*
 Hon. JOHN EATON, *Marietta, Ohio.*
 Hon. W. W. EATON, *Hartford, Conn.*

SECRETARY.

Prof. DANIEL C. EATON, *New Haven, Conn.*

TREASURER.

EDWARD B. EATON, Esq., *36 Federal st., Boston, Mass.*

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

Rev. ARTHUR W. H. EATON, *St. Botolph Club, Boston.*
 WILLIAM L. EATON, Esq., *Concord, Mass.*
 DANIEL A. EATON, Esq., *Lowell, Mass.*
 Mrs. SILVANUS HAYWARD, *Globe Village, Mass.*
 Mrs. H. K. WIGHT, *Indian Orchard, Mass.*

FINANCE AND AUDITING COMMITTEE.

J. J. EATON, Esq., *224 Washington st., Boston.*
 JOHN EATON, Esq., *Room 11, 246 Washington st., Boston.*
 CHARLES O. EATON, Esq., *Boston.*

A motion was made, and after slight amendment, was carried unanimously, that Article VI of the Constitution be amended so as to read thus: "The Association shall meet annually in the month of August, or at such times as the Executive Committee shall determine."

A recess was then taken that the company might partake of a collation prepared in an adjoining room. After the collation brief addresses were made by several persons. The secretary read letters from Hon. W. W. Eaton of Hartford, Mr. A. W. Eaton of Oxford, Idaho, Mr. Wm. L. Eaton of Concord, Mass., and others who regretted that they could not attend the meeting, and then gave some further account of the Eaton family formerly living near Dover.

Professor John P. Marshall, of Tufts College, was the next speaker, and expressed his pleasure at meeting so many persons bearing the family name of his grandmother. Mr. Frederic Eaton, of Toledo, a brother of President Eaton of Marietta, said that he had never made a speech in his life, but that he could not refrain from expressing his delight at meeting so many good looking men and handsome women of the name of Eaton.

Mr. George Eaton Priest, of Watertown, Mass., had been one of the party that visited Haverhill last summer under the guidance of the good Doctor from Keene. He wished that some photographer would take views of the interesting places they then visited.

Dr. Benjamin Rand said that he belonged to the Nova Scotia Eatons, and spoke of his ancestor David's emigration to that delightful region from which the Acadians had been expelled. He said the district was now full of Eatons ready to give a warm welcome to all of the race.

Rev. Herrick M. Eaton said that until this Association was organized he had no idea how many handsome and excellent people were related to him. He could remember his great-grandmother, who died long ago at a very great age, but the Doctor could go back several generations further, and tell him of ancestors he had never heard of before. He believed in being happy, and in doing good with a cheerful face.

Mr. Stephen B. Eaton was introduced as coming from the State Prison of New Hampshire (of which he is steward). He said he was happy to meet with the Eatons, and now would

go back to New Hampshire "and be a good boy and stay in prison a little longer."

The Association then re-assembled in the Meionaoon and upon motion adjourned. One hundred and thirty-one persons sat down to the dinner, and a considerable number more were present at some part of the exercises.

DANIEL C. EATON, *Secretary.*

* * * *In writing the above report I have had the use of notes kindly taken by Dr. Benjamin Rand.—D. C. E.*

APPENDIX.

REPORTS OF THE GENEALOGISTS FOR THE SEVERAL FAMILIES IN THE ASSOCIATION.

1. The Family of Francis Eaton of Plymouth.

(*Report presented by Rev. Silvanus Hayward.*)

Previous to this year much valuable work had been done in looking up the descendants of Francis Eaton of the Mayflower. During the past year much has been accomplished in sorting and arranging material already gathered, and in adding to the record, especially that of the later generations. A few important facts have been discovered. Heretofore it has been said that Martha wife of Samuel Eaton² was *probably* daughter of Francis Billington. In Vol. III of Plymouth Colony Records, p. 47 under date 3 Jan. 1663 is a deed of gift from Francis Billington "To my son-in-law Samuell Eaton and my daughter Martha as his wife, and their daughter Sarah." This renders it *certain*, and gives the new fact of a dau. Sarah older than Samuel.³ We have found some descendants of Silvanus⁵ who went to New Salem. The name Eaton in his line seems to be extinct, unless there are descendants of his youngest son Abner⁶ of whom we have nothing but the birth. The line of Samuel² is much more complete than that of Benjamin². Rev. Elisha Eaton of Harpswell, Me., has been positively identified by probate records as the son of Benjamin.³ There is yet considerable confusion in this line owing partly to the fact that there are several Benjamins of about the same age, and with wives of the same name. If this paper should fall into the hands of any one who can give any information on these or other points it will be thankfully received. The names of those of the blood of Francis Eaton¹, already collected, are in number as follows: 1 of the first generation, 3 of the second, 9 of the third, 33 of the fourth, 42 of the fifth, 77 of the sixth, 253 of the seventh, 416 of the eighth, 376 of the ninth, 78 of the tenth and 2 of the eleventh, making 1,290 in all. There are many more yet to be collected. The first six generations are all dead. Forty or fifty of the seventh generation are supposed to be still living, mostly elderly people. The Eatons now in active life are mostly of the eighth and ninth generations. The tenth and eleventh are young people and children. The following is an outline of the first four generations:

I.

FRANCIS EATON¹ came over in the Mayflower in 1620. His autograph is preserved in the County Office at Plymouth. His name is in the list of freemen and is rated at 9 shillings, 25 March 1633. He was a carpenter by trade, and removed from Plymouth to Duxbury, where he died in the latter part of 1633. 22 May 1627 "The cattell w^{ch} were the Companies, to wit,

the Cowes & the Goates" were divided in 12 lots, 13 persons being "pportioned to one lot." "The tenth lot fell to ff Francis Eaton & those joyned wth him, his wife Christian Eaton, Samuell Eaton, Rahell Eaton" and nine others. "To this lott ffell an heyfer of the last yeare called the white belyd heyfer & two shee goats." *Francis Eaton*¹ m. first *Sarah* — who came with him in the Mayflower. Bradford says she died in "the generall sicknes," which was the first winter, 1620-1. He m. a second wife, name unknown, who died soon. He married third, *Christian Penn* who came over in the "Ann" in 1623. [In July 1634 she m. Francis Billington by whom she had eight children.]

Children by first wife :—

1. Samuel² b. England or Holland 1620.

Children by second wife :—

2. Rachel² b. Plymouth 1624-5.

Children by third wife :—

3. Benjamin² b. Plymouth about 1627.

Two others, one of whom was "an ideote," and the other probably died without issue.

II.

SAMUEL EATON² (*Francis*¹) b. England or Holland 1620; came over in the Mayflower, "a sucking child;" was apprenticed for "seaven yeaeres" to "John Cooke, the younger;" was among the purchasers of Dartmouth in 1652; was first of Duxbury, and afterwards "a householder" in Middleboro', whence he was driven back to Plymouth by the Indians at the time of "King Philip's War" in 1675; was admitted a freeman 1 June, 1663; d. Middleboro, 1684; m. first, before 1647, *Elizabeth* —, by whom he had at least one child; m. second, 10 Jan. 1660 *Martha Billington*, dau. of Francis and Christian (Penn) (Eaton) Billington.

Children by first wife :—

1. A child living in 1650 prob. d. young.

Children by second wife :—

2. Sarah³ b. Duxbury ? about 1661.
3. Samuel³ b. Middleboro ? 1663.
4. Mercy³ b. Middleboro ? about 1665.

RACHEL EATON² (*Francis*¹) b. about 1624; m. 2 March 1645 *Joseph Ramsden*. An order of the Court in May 1652 says that he lived with his family "remote in the woods," and he was warned "to bring his wife and family with all convenient speed near unto som Naighborhood." 2 Feb. 1673 Joseph Ramsden executed a deed of gift conveying "my house, land, and meadow lying in Lakenham" "to my eldest son Daniell Ramsden, and my proper heir and successor." [Joseph m. 16 Oct. 1661 a second wife, *Mary Savory*.]

Children :—

1. Daniel Ramsden³ b. 14 Sept. 1649.
and probably others.

BENJAMIN EATON² (Francis¹) b. about 1627; was bound out 11 Feb. 1635 to " Bridgett Fuller, widow, for 14 years, shee being to keep him at schoole 2 years;" he was of Duxbury in 1648, of Plymouth in 1650 and later; was admitted to first church in Plymouth 19 March 1693; m. 4 Dec. 1660 *Sarah Hoskins*, probably dau. of William.

Children :—

1. William³ b. about 1662; will proved 18 March 1690-1.
2. Benjamin³ b. Plymouth 1664.
3. Ebenezer³ b. about 1667.
4. Rebecca³ m. Josiah Rickard.

III.

SAMUEL EATON³ (Samuel,² Francis¹) b. Middleboro? 1663; a member of the first church in Middleboro, of which Rev. Samuel Fuller was the pastor, whose dau. *Elizabeth* he m. about 1694, and d. there 8 March 1723-4.

Children :—

1. Mercy⁴ ["Eaighton"] b. Middleboro, 16 Dec. 1695; d. there before 1724.
2. Keziah⁴ b. Middleboro, 16 May, 1700; d. there 7 Feb. 1709.
3. Elizabeth⁴ b. Middleboro, 26 July 1701. *
4. Barnabas⁴ b. Middleboro 12 April 1703; m. first Mehitabel Alden, by whom he had five children; m. second Elizabeth Clemons, by whom he had eight children.

MERCY EATON³ (Samuel², Francis¹) b. about 1665; m. *Samuel Fuller*, son of Rev. Samuel, and resided in Plympton.

Children :—

1. Nathaniel Fuller⁴ b. 1687.
2. Samuel Fuller⁴ b. 1689.
3. William Fuller⁴ b. 1691.
4. Seth Fuller⁴ b. 1692; m. Sarah, dau. of " Adam Wright and widow Deborah Cole."
5. Ebenezer Fuller⁴ b. 1695; m. Joanna Gray.
6. Benjamin Fuller⁴ b. 1696.
7. Elizabeth Fuller⁴ b. 1697.
8. John Fuller⁴ b. 1698.
9. Jabez Fuller⁴ b. 1701.
10. Mercy Fuller⁴ b. 1702; m. Ebenezer Raymond.
11. James Fuller⁴ b. 1704; m. Judith, dau. of Henry Rickard.

BENJAMIN EATON³ (Benjamin², Francis¹) b. Plymouth 1664; was a "Housewright" at Kingston, then a part of Plymouth; his will was dated 3 April 1745, and probated 20 Dec. following; m. first 18 Dec. 1689 *Mary Coombs* of Middleboro, who was the mother of his twelve children; m. second *Susanna* —— who d. 13 April 1739 aged 70.

Children :—

1. William⁴ b. Kingston 1 June 1691; non compos.
2. Hannah⁴ b. Kingston 16 Feb. 1692; m. Benjamin Bryant.
3. Jabez⁴ b. Kingston 8 Feb. 1693; d. young.
4. Daniel⁴ b. Kingston 1694.
5. Sarah⁴ b. Kingston 20 Oct. 1695; m. Benjamin Cushman.
6. John⁴ b. Kingston 6 Oct. 1697; m. Elizabeth Fuller.
7. Benjamin⁴ b. Kingston 1698.
8. Francis⁴ b. Kingston about 1700; resided in Middleboro, where he d. before 1748; m. first Thankful Alden, by whom he had two sons; m. second Lydia Fuller, by whom he had seven children.
9. Elisha⁴ b. Kingston about 1702; graduated at Harvard College 1729; was ordained at Braintree, Mass. 2 June 1731; installed pastor of Congregational Church at Harpswell, Me. 1754, where he d. 22 April, 1764; m. Mrs. Katharine (Belcher) Clough by whom he had seven children.
10. Mary⁴ m. Zachariah Soule.
11. Elizabeth⁴ m. Cornelius Sturtevant.
12. David⁴ b. Kingston about 1709; d. 8 July 1759; m. Deborah Fuller by whom he had six children.

EBENEZER EATON³ (Benjamin², Francis¹) b. about 1667-70; m. 24 Nov. 1701, Hannah, dau. of Giles and Hannah (Dunham) Rickard of Plymouth. She died at North Yarmouth, Me. 26 April 1765. Their children were born in Plymouth. He was a house-carpenter and removed to North Yarmouth, Me. probably about 1719, where he died before 28 Dec. 1736 when his son Ebenezer presented an Inventory of his estate. He and his wife were admitted members of the First Church in Plymouth, 4 Aug. 1706.

Children :—

1. Ebenezer⁴ b. 17 Sept. 1702; removed from Kingston about 1730 to North Yarmouth, Me. where he was killed by the Indians 20 June 1748.
2. Benjamin⁴ b. 23 Nov. 1704; d. before 18 Aug. 1706.
3. Mercy⁴ b. 15 March 1705-6.
4. Elisha⁴ b. 11 Oct. 1708. He and his brother Gideon both joined the Congregational Church at North Yarmouth, 21 May 1732, and signed a deed there 30 April 1737 in which they call themselves "husbandmen."
5. Gideon⁴ b. 5 Feb. 1711-12; d. at North Yarmouth 18 Oct. 1786.
6. Joanna⁴ b. 29 April 1716.

II. The Family of John Eaton of Dedham.

(Report presented by Daniel C. Eaton.)

Materials for compiling the genealogy of the Dedham Eatons have now been collected so fully, that not much more remains to be done in the way of looking up old records. The principal gap is in the family of William Eaton of the fifth generation, who went to Vermont from Dedham about 1770-1780. He married Mary Thorp of Dedham at King's Chapel in Boston, 18 Dec. 1760. Children Mary, Abigail, William, Asa, Joseph were born in Dedham, and Jesse, Samuel and John after the family went from there. The descendants of Joseph and Jesse are known, those of the rest are yet to be discovered. The history of the family is written out and ready for printing through about half of the seventh generation, but so little time can be spared for the work from other duties, that I can make no promises as to its completion.

During the year the attempt to find the old home in England of John Eaton of Dedham has been prosecuted energetically, and with what success the following will show. In his will, dated 2 November, 1658, fifteen days before his decease, it is ordered that £5 should be given to John Dammant of Reading, and £5 to John Plimpton of Medfield. As John Plimpton had married Jane Dammant of Dedham, who came from England in 1635, then aged 9 years, in the same company with Mrs. Abigail Eaton, John Eaton's wife, it has long been supposed that there was some connection between the Dedham Eatons and the Reading Dammants, or Damons, for so the family name has usually been written. Miss Lucy E. Eaton, of Dedham, discovered a few years ago that in the Church Record of Dedham Jane Damat was styled in 1640 "the daughter of our sister Eaton." This makes it certain that John Eaton's wife had been the widow of a Dammant or Damon. In the "*Damon Memorial*", published in 1882 by Rev. Samuel C. Damon of Honolulu, it is said that the baptism of John Damon, son of John Damon, is recorded under the date of June 25th, 1620, in the Parish register of St. Lawrence's Church, Reading, England. Carefully made fac-similes of this entry are now in my possession, and the true reading is beyond all question *John Cannon*, and not *John Damon*. The *C* is a little peculiar, but no good reader of ancient writings could have any doubt about it, and the middle letters are clearly double *n*.

Long-continued searches* in the probate records at Somerset house, and the various probate registries in Essex, Suffolk, and Norfolk, and at several parishes in London and in the counties mentioned, have brought to light interesting particulars about many Eatons, living between 1600 and 1650, named John, Thomas, William, Richard, Francis, Humphrey, James, Edmund, Peter, Henry, Robert, Walter, etc. But no records were found which were clearly referable to any of our New England emigrant ancestors. Knowing that William Eaton of Reading was registered as coming from Staple, it was decided last spring to try Kent; and finally the long sought names were discovered in the Registers of the Church of St. James the Apostle in Dover.

* These searches were made by Mrs. Minima Harman, of Llugwy, Machynlleth, North Wales, a lady who has had great experience in this kind of investigation.

The extracts, certified by Rev. A. Howell Smith, the present Rector of that parish, read as follows:—

Marriages.

1630 John Eton & Abigaile Doman. April 5
Walter Richards, Rector.

*Christenings.**

1624 Fane daughter of Henry Daman, Aug. 15
1630 Mary the daughter of John Eaton, Mar. 20
1633 John the son of John Eaton Oct. 7
Walter Richards, Rector.

By these four concurrent pieces of evidence it is absolutely proved that John and Abigail Eaton and their older children came from Dover, Co. Kent, England. Further searches, now being made, may disclose yet more about them, and perhaps connect John Eaton with a family of Eatons whose memorials are still seen in the old churches of Dover.

Incidental to this search there were discovered some interesting records relating to the family of William Eaton of Reading. It has already been shown by the investigations of Mr. Waters [N. E. Hist. and Gen. Register, vol. xxxvii, p. 378] that his wife's family name was Jenkins. The following are extracts from the Registers of St. James', Staple, Co. Kent, England:—

- | | | |
|-------|---|----------|
| 1630. | <i>Martha, the daughter of William Eaton, bapt.</i> | 19 Sept. |
| 1631. | <i>Alba, the daughter of William Eaton, bapt.</i> | 19 Feb. |
| 1633. | <i>William, the son of William Eaton, bapt.</i> | 12 Jan. |
| 1634. | <i>Mary, the daughter of William Eaton, buried</i> | 29 July. |
| 1634. | <i>William, the son of William Eaton, buried</i> | 11 Aug. |
| 1635. | <i>John, the son of William & Martha Eaton, bapt.</i> | 20 Dec. |

These items agree perfectly with the long-known entry at Sandwich, certified 9 June 1637, of "persons who have taken passage for the American plantations," and among them;—"William Eaton, of Staple, husbandman, and Martha, his wife, 3 children, 1 servant."

From evidence gathered in Massachusetts we knew already that these "3 children" were Martha, Abigail or Abby, and John; so that the identification of Staple as the former home of our William Eaton is now fully corroborated.

* It should be remembered that at this time the year began about the first of April and ended late in March, so that in our present style the year of Mary's birth would be written 1631.

III. The Family of John Eaton of Haverhill.

(Report presented by Rev. Dr. William H. Eaton.)

Before the formation of this Association in July 1882, I was under the impression that the descendants of John and Anne Eaton were very numerous. Within the last six years this impression has ripened into a full assurance of faith. I have now in my possession 4088 names which I am able to place in their proper connection. These names include ten generations and are about equally divided between the two sexes, viz: sons 2043, daughters 2045. Among these I find 1041 marriages. In addition to these I have about five hundred names belonging to the Eaton race, but whether to my line or not is as yet uncertain. With this collection of names it is safe to say, that when all has been done that ought to be done before our Genealogy is published, there will be at least six thousand names to be entered as the descendants of John and Anne Eaton. Much more work remains to be done in this line, though the most difficult half has already been accomplished.

In the past year the Muster Rolls of the Revolutionary War, as found in the Massachusetts Archives, have been carefully examined by a professional reader of old manuscripts, and all Eaton names, with their immediate connection, have been faithfully copied for the use of the genealogists of this Association. I have personally examined the Muster Rolls of the French and Indian Wars, of the Revolutionary War, of the War of 1812, and of the War of the Rebellion, as put forth in the report of the Adjutant General of the State of New Hampshire, and have copied whatever I found pertaining to the Eaton name. There is now in the hands of our Secretary, a full record of all Eaton pensioners for services in the Revolution, as found in the Pension office in the city of Washington. And I have the promise, whenever I will ask for it, of a like record of all Eaton pensioners past and present, *whenever* their services for the government were rendered. With correctly certified copies of all those rolls before us, as now indicated, we shall be able to designate pretty fairly those of our respective clans who have been in the wars. And we are all desirous that due credit should be given to our ancestors who have thus served their country.

It is with pleasure that I speak to you of a very enjoyable trip that some few of my "Kith and Kin" took last August to the old homesteads of our ancestors in Salisbury and Haverhill, in the eastern part of Massachusetts. Our original ancestor in this country spent six years or more in Salisbury, and then moved to Haverhill. He had two sons; one married and lived in Salisbury, and the other went with his father to Haverhill. So there were ancestral homes to be visited in both places. We met first in Haverhill at 2 o'clock P. M. on Tuesday Aug. 7th. At this hour we took a barge for the West Parish, about 2 miles distant, where the Eatons established a home in the autumn of 1646. Here we identified, beyond all reasonable doubt, three important estates formerly held by the Eatons. One which stood nearly opposite to the "Garrison House," is clearly traced back to the possession of Thomas Eaton, of the fourth generation, who was born in 1686, and married in 1729. His eldest son, Joseph, remained on the home place, where he had a family of ten children, most of whom are represented in this

Association. Another was "Capt. Timothy Eaton's Mansion" built about one hundred years ago. Capt. Timothy's sons, Isaiah, Timothy, Jr., Daniel, Phineas and Ward, are well known to many here to-day. We also found the old cellar over which formerly stood the house of James Eaton, who was born March 9, 1697. This estate was owned by his father, Jonathan of the third generation, and was probably, as tradition has it, the homestead of John and Anne Eaton from 1646 to the day of their death. Many of the descendants of the before mentioned James Eaton are connected with this Association. The oldest grave stone which we found with a legible inscription was erected to his memory. The inscription is;

"Here lies the body of
MR. JAMES EATON.
He died March 18: 1773.
In the 76th. year of his age."

We imagined that his ancestors were buried on a line just north of him, where were six or eight unmarked graves.

In the evening some thirty or more of the good people of Haverhill, connected with the Eatons by blood or marriage, came in to see us at our hotel, and made us glad by their presence, sympathy and words of cheer. Among this number we can not fail to mention the name of William Cogswell, M. D., of Bradford. On Wednesday morning Aug. 8th, we went down to Salisbury by rail, where we were shown by Eaton friends the first homestead of our original American ancestor. It consisted of $2\frac{1}{2}$ acres lying only a stone's cast from where the depot now stands. His farm was about a mile distant on the road to the Beach on the "Great Neck," so called. If tradition is true, and all known records seem to confirm it, this estate has been in the hands of the Eatons for about 250 years, and is now owned by seven sisters, daughters of the late James Eaton of Salisbury. It was here that a choice dinner was served for our company by one of the seven sisters, Mrs. Mary Jane Lake. This was the homestead of Jonathan Eaton of the fourth generation who married Judith Ash in 1720. They were the parents of Theophilus Eaton, who, with his brother Jonathan and cousin William, settled on Deer Isle, Maine, more than a hundred years ago. After dinner we separated with the blessings of seven generations resting upon us. Rev. H. M. Eaton of Middleboro, Mass., and Prest. John Eaton of Marietta College, Ohio, contributed largely to the enjoyment of this family gathering.

The author of this report remained in Salisbury for the next three weeks, and spent much of his time in visiting the descendants of former generations. He was especially aided in his investigations by Mrs. Mary Jane Lake, Mr. Perkins Merrill and his mother, and by Mr. Lewis Greenleaf. Estates owned by Eatons of the fourth, fifth and sixth generations were pointed out and described with great definiteness. The ancestry of quite a number of families was given verbally by women whose memory seemed almost infallible. This excursion to Haverhill and Salisbury will be of great value to this Association, though there was no draft upon its treasury.

The author of this report still solicits help from all living descendants of John and Anne Eaton.

IV. The Family of Jonas Eaton of Reading.

(*Report transmitted by William L. Eaton.*)

It is not known precisely when Jonas Eaton came to New England from the mother country. About 1643 he was in Watertown, Mass. He had left England with thousands of his countrymen at a time when the exactions and oppression of the Stuart Charles had turned the thought and hopes of English freeman to the wilderness over the seas. Of his parentage we are ignorant; as yet his birthplace is unknown; and whether he brought his bride with him to grace his rude home, or whether he found her among the towns that for ten or more years had been struggling and thriving on the banks of the Charles and Mystic, is a matter for conjecture. The maiden name of our revered mother has not been saved from oblivion, and the inference is a strong one that she left kith and kin and alone followed the fortunes of her accepted husband.

Before settling in Reading it is quite certain that Jonas Eaton lived in Watertown, for he bought and sold land in that township, and there is some reason to believe that his older children were born there or in the adjoining town of Sudbury. In Reading, however, he made permanent settlement on Cowdrey's Hill. (The part of the town near the Great Pond, where settlement was made came to be South Reading, and recently has changed its name to Wakefield). In 1648 he was a member of the First Church, and in 1653 the General Court of the Colony made him "freeman." He was honored by his fellow townsmen with the office of Selectman. This honor, however, did not save him from a fine of six-pence, imposed once upon him and some of his neighbors for being late in coming to town-meeting. Civic privileges were serious obligations in those early days.

For nearly forty years Jonas lived and thrived in Reading. Of his prosperity the evidence is abundant. Nine children were born to him and Grace his wife, and their births are recorded, all on the same page, in the ancient records of Reading. Two sons, Jonas and David, died in infancy; one daughter died unmarried at an advanced age; five sons and one daughter became the heads of families. In children and grandchildren, therefore, he was prospered. With lands and houses, too, with barns and cattle he was well provided. In the several divisions of the common lands in Reading he drew large portions; to his estate he added much by purchase. His minister's rate in 1666 was £3 16s. 6d., a sum that indicates the prosperity of the rate payer. He owned two dwelling houses and a barn, and at the time of his death was building a second barn. The winter he died there were fed in his barn six oxen, eighteen head of other cattle, twenty-three sheep, thirteen swine, two horses and three colts, and the ample bins were filled with the produce of his fields. Carts, chains, plows, yokes, wedges, beetles, spades, shovels, six axes, chisels, planes, augers, 5000 shingles, sawyer stuff and boards, all appear among the inventoried articles of his estate, and clearly show that Jonas Eaton and his sons turned their hands to the multifarious occupations of the pioneer life they led, and that tools were abundant and suited to their needs.

The inventory also reveals a house well stocked with house-keeping

appliances. Three pounds value of pewter and tin adorned their "cubbard" and six pounds value of irons and brasses ornamented their fire-places. Books were there, appraised at two pounds. The saddle, pillion, and cloth suggest to us the picture of Jonas and his wife, mounted on the same horse, winding down Cowdrey Hill Sunday after Sunday to the rude meeting-house by the Great Pond. They were devout worshippers at the meeting, and at home they lived a godly life. They brought up a God-fearing family whose vigorous faith shaped the lives and characters of their descendants for many generations.

Jonas Eaton died Feb. 24, 1674. In his will, which may be read in the Probate Office at Cambridge, Mass., he provides with tender solicitude for the comforts and care of his life companion. To John, his eldest son, he gives the farm and housings at Pine Plains, and upon Jonas, his namesake, he bestows the homestead. The care of their mother he enjoins upon John and Jonas. Joseph receives £30, Joshua and Jonathan £15 each. Mary, the eldest daughter, receives an annuity of 40 shillings "so long as she lives a maide," and Sarie Dodge, his second daughter is given £5. His estate was appraised at £950, 16s., 4d. In 1680, Grace Eaton married Henry Silsbee of Lynn, and as our researches have made it quite certain that no Grace Eaton other than the widow of Jonas Eaton was then in the colonies, we must conclude that our maternal ancestor died Grace Silsbee. When and where she died is unrecorded.

Mary, the eldest child of Jonas and Grace, died a spinster. In 1731, April 4, "dyed at Reading Mary Eaton, aged 90 yrs., at the house of her nephew Thomas Eaton." There is little doubt that we have here a copy of the record of the death of Mary Eaton, daughter of Jonas.

John, the eldest son, b. Sept. 10, 1645 was "John of the Plain." This has been proven beyond a doubt. He married Dorcas Green, Nov. 26, 1674, and had a family of twelve children. Several of these children, five sons and perhaps a daughter, died in childhood. Noah lived to be 23 yrs. old, and died unmarried. Grace and Phebe, daughters, married, the one in 1698 John Boutwell of Reading, the other in 1714 Jonathan Nichols. Jonas b. 18 May 1680 settled in Framingham, where he was known as farmer, carpenter, tanner and bricklayer. In 1717 he was one of the Selectmen of the town. He founded one of the most prosperous, numerous and widely dispersed branches of our Line. Of these families, Framingham, Sudbury, Charlestown, Groton, Barre (Mass.), Warren (Me.), Plainfield and Killingly (Ct.), and many western towns have been centres. Many clergymen, lawyers, physicians, teachers, merchants, farmers are found among the descendants of Jonas of Framingham. Joseph, son of John and Dorcas b. about 1784, lived in Lynn and Reading, and had extensive holdings of real estate in Essex, Middlesex and Worcester counties. Joseph, son of Joseph, married Mary Pearson of Lynn, and Pearson has come down to our day as an Eaton family name in this branch. To this branch belong a large number of Eatons who trace their ancestors to Lunenburg, Mass. The writer of this sketch has correspondents of this branch in Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Maine, Vermont, Massachusetts, Illinois and California. From Benjamin son of John and Dorcas b. 16 Jan. 1683 are descended many

Eatons of Boston, Roxbury and Marblehead. John Eaton died May 24, 1691, and his widow, Dorcas, married Abraham Bryant in 1693.

Jonas Eaton, son of Jonas and Grace b. 24 Sept. 1648, married Hannah Mason. The names and birth-dates of seven children are recorded at Reading. In 1696 he sold the homestead he inherited and in 1701 he and his wife Hannah "owned the covenant" in the presence of the Meeting at Reading. We have no trace of him nor of his family afterward.

Joseph the third son of Jonas and Grace to live, was born 5 Jan. 1651. He settled in Beverly, Mass., where were born his two children, Mercy and Joseph. His grandchildren have been traced into Connecticut, but it is not known what became of them afterward.

Joshua the fourth son of Jonas and Grace settled in Reading, where he filled the offices of Selectman and Representative to the General Court, and was a Corporal in the Militia. His descendants inherited their ancestor's love for the military, and the titles of Captain and Lieutenant were common among them. Joshua Eaton was a prosperous farmer and tanner. His eldest son, Joshua, was the father of the first descendant of Jonas to graduate at Harvard College. His name was Joshua and he graduated in 1735. He studied law and practiced at Worcester. He soon felt called to enter the ministry, and was for many years settled at Spencer, Mass. He married Sarah Eliot, a descendant of the Indian Apostle. Two of his sons, Joshua and John Eliot Eaton, graduated at Harvard. Of the children of the latter, John Eliot Eaton, Jr., became a physician, well known in central Massachusetts, and a daughter Lydia Woolcot Eaton became the mother of Henry C. Bowen, widely known as the editor of the *Independent*. There are no descendants in the male line of Joshua [III] living. Thomas, the second son of Joshua [II], married Lydia Pierce of Watertown, and held many offices, civil and military in Reading. His descendants are numerous and are found in Reading, Woburn, Winchester, Mass., and in Vermont. Surgeon Joseph Eaton, late U. S. A., and Gen. Joseph H. Eaton, U. S. A., belong to this branch. The Auburn, Mass. Eatons, an influential and prosperous family, are of this line. Many families in and near Boston are descended from Charles, the third son of Joshua [II]. The late Rev. Edwin A. Eaton of Boston and the Rev. Chas. H. Eaton of New York are of this family.

The descendants of Jonathan, the fifth son of Jonas and Grace, are probably more numerous than those of John. His children numbered eleven, and of these four sons, John, Nathaniel, Samuel, and Noah became the heads of large families. From John are descended the Eatons of Amherst, and Wilton, N. H., and many Boston and Cambridge families. From Nathaniel have come the Westminster, Mass. families, and the widely-dispersed families who trace their lineage to Nathan Eaton of Malden, Mass. A large and prosperous family of this branch lived at Ludlow, Vt. The descendants of Samuel have separated far and wide. Sudbury and Worcester, Mass. were the centres of dispersion, and nearly every Northern State from Maine to California contains representatives of this branch. From Noah came by far the larger number of the Wakefield and Woburn Eatons. Noah Eaton married Phebe, daughter of Dr. Lilley of Woburn. Their son Noah inherited the Lilley homestead and settled in Woburn. Their son

Lilley settled in Reading, now Wakefield. The Hon. Lilley Eaton, late of Reading, historian of his native town, and for many years its leading citizen, was a grandson of Noah Eaton. Many others of the descendants of Noah Eaton have filled creditably influential positions in church and town.

Sarah, the second daughter of Jonas and Grace Eaton, married Joseph Dodge of Beverly, Mass., where she settled and brought up a large family of children. In general, no effort has been made to trace the descendants of daughters beyond one generation. This work properly belongs to the genealogists of the husbands' families.

In our investigations many interesting incidents and facts have been discovered, which cannot be set forth in a brief report. A line or two, however, may be taken to emphasize what must give enduring satisfaction to every Eaton in whose heart burns the torch of patriotism. The early colonial muster rolls are sprinkled with the names of Eatons. In large numbers they answered to the call of duty in the War for Independence. Sailor sons of Jonas suffered cruel impressment by the British in the early years of this century, and later helped with a will to fight for "Sailors' Rights." Finally, from every loyal State in 1861, unnumbered Eatons of this line joined the Union hosts who marched through victory to a freer and nobler Union.

Enough material has been gathered to fill a large volume with the histories and genealogies of the descendants of Jonas. More than five thousand names are entered in our classified papers. Many records remain to be obtained. It is to be regretted that trace of the families of two of the sons of Jonas and Grace has been lost. To prepare the material in hand, and to secure what more is accessible, will be a laborious work that will consume more time than the writer of this account dares to estimate, or even contemplate, when only the leisure moments of a busy life are available for the work.

V. The Family of William Eaton of Reading.

(Report presented by Daniel A. Eaton.)

WILLIAM was born, it is supposed in England, about the year 1604 or 1606, and married Martha Jenkins about 1633. He was a husbandman at Staple in the county of Kent, where his older children were born, and two of them buried. The following list of his children is made up from the records of the parish of St. James in Staple, and from the town records of Watertown, Mass.

Children :—

1. Mary ——— ; buried at Staple, 29 July 1634.
2. Martha, baptized at Staple, 19 Sept. 1630.
3. Abigail or Abby, baptized at Staple, 19 Feb. 1631 (= 1632).
4. William, baptized at Staple, 12 Jan. 1633 (= 1634), and buried there 11 Aug. 1634.
5. John, baptized at Staple, 20 Dec. 1635 (just fifteen years after the landing of the Pilgrims).
6. Daniel, born at Watertown, 20 Jan. 1639 (= 1640).
7. Mary, born at Watertown, 8 April 1643.

William and Martha, with three children, Martha, Abigail and John, and a servant, took passage from Sandwich, for the American Plantations, the list certified to 9 June 1637. He was a proprietor or land-holder in Watertown, Mass., in 1642, and was made Freeman in 1653.

After arriving in America, Martha the eldest daughter married first, Richard Oldham, and second, Thomas Brown, of Cambridge, Mass., and had two children by the first husband, and six by the second. Abigail or Abby, married Francis Moore, 7 Sept. 1650; it is not known that she left any children.

John married Elizabeth Kendall, 8 March 1658, and lived in Reading, Mass., and had four sons and seven daughters. Two of the sons, John and William, and all the daughters lived to be married, and it is believed that all of these had families.

Daniel, born in Watertown, Mass., 20 January 1639, married Mary ———, 21 Dec. 1664, and had four sons and five daughters. One son died in infancy; of the others William and Daniel went to Connecticut, and Thomas lived in Lynn, Mass. Three of the daughters were married.

Mary, born in Watertown, 8 April 1643, married Richard Dodge, 23 Feb. 1668. They had five children.

William the father, moved to Reading, Mass., where he died 13 May 1673, leaving property inventoried at £427 1 s., his wife Martha made sole Executrix, and Martha his wife, Mary, daughter, John and Daniel, sons, and Thomas Brown and Francis Moore, sons-in-law, legatees.

Martha the mother, died 14 Nov. 1680, she left a will dated 24 Nov. 1675, inventory of property, £20. 11s., sons John and Daniel, daughter Mary, and sons-in-law, legatees.

William and Martha were members of the First Church in Reading from 1648 to their death.

Their descendants are scattered from the Atlantic to the Pacific, and from Canada to the Gulf of Mexico, and represent all the professions and trades in life:—they also participated in the French and Revolutionary Wars, and in the Rebellion, many giving their lives for their country.

We have not been able to accomplish as much toward the completion of our record during the past year as desired, but have done what we could.

In our last report we had 1333 Eaton names. This year our summary is as follows:

1st generation,	our ancestor,	William Eaton,	and wife	Martha.
2d	"	3 sons and	4 daughters.	
3d	"	9 "	"	12 "
4th	"	21	"	13 "
5th	"	40	"	25 "
6th	"	92	"	84 "
7th	"	223	"	183 "
8th	"	268	"	252 "
9th	"	148	"	126 "
10th	"	26	"	23 "
11th	"	1	"	0 "
<hr/>				
		331		722

This makes a total of 1553, a gain of 220 names during the year. The solitary representative of the eleventh generation, so far as reported, was born last July. The above numbers do not include the children of the married daughters of the family, nor *their* children, or else the numbers would be very much larger than they are. Our records are still very incomplete, and could all the names which belong to us be obtained we could doubtless report a much greater number, and this very incompleteness makes it very uncertain when we shall be able to send our work to the printer. The year's additions to the names recorded are of persons in every generation, from the second to the eleventh.

CONSTITUTION,

As amended October 31, 1888.

I. THE EATON FAMILY ASSOCIATION was organized in Boston, Massachusetts, July 25th, 1882. Its objects are genealogical research among the several families of the name, and the cultivation of mutual acquaintance and friendship.

II. All persons of the Eaton name or race shall be eligible for membership, and may become members of the Association by assenting to these Articles, and sending their names to the Secretary.

III. The officers shall be a President, five Vice-Presidents, a Secretary, a Treasurer, an Executive Committee of from five to ten members, and a Finance and Auditing Committee of three; and the President, Secretary, Treasurer, and the Chairman of the Finance Committee shall be members *ex-officio* of the Executive Committee. These officers shall hold office for one year or until others shall be chosen at a regular meeting of the Association, and the Executive Committee shall have power to fill any vacancies that may occur.

IV. The Treasurer shall pay accounts after they have been approved by the President, the Secretary, and the Chairman of the Finance Committee.

V. Members of the Association are expected to take an active interest in its various objects, and likewise to contribute annually to its funds according to their ability.

VI. The Association shall meet annually in the month of August or at such times as the Executive Committee shall determine.

VII. This Constitution may be amended at any regular meeting of the Association by a majority vote of those present.

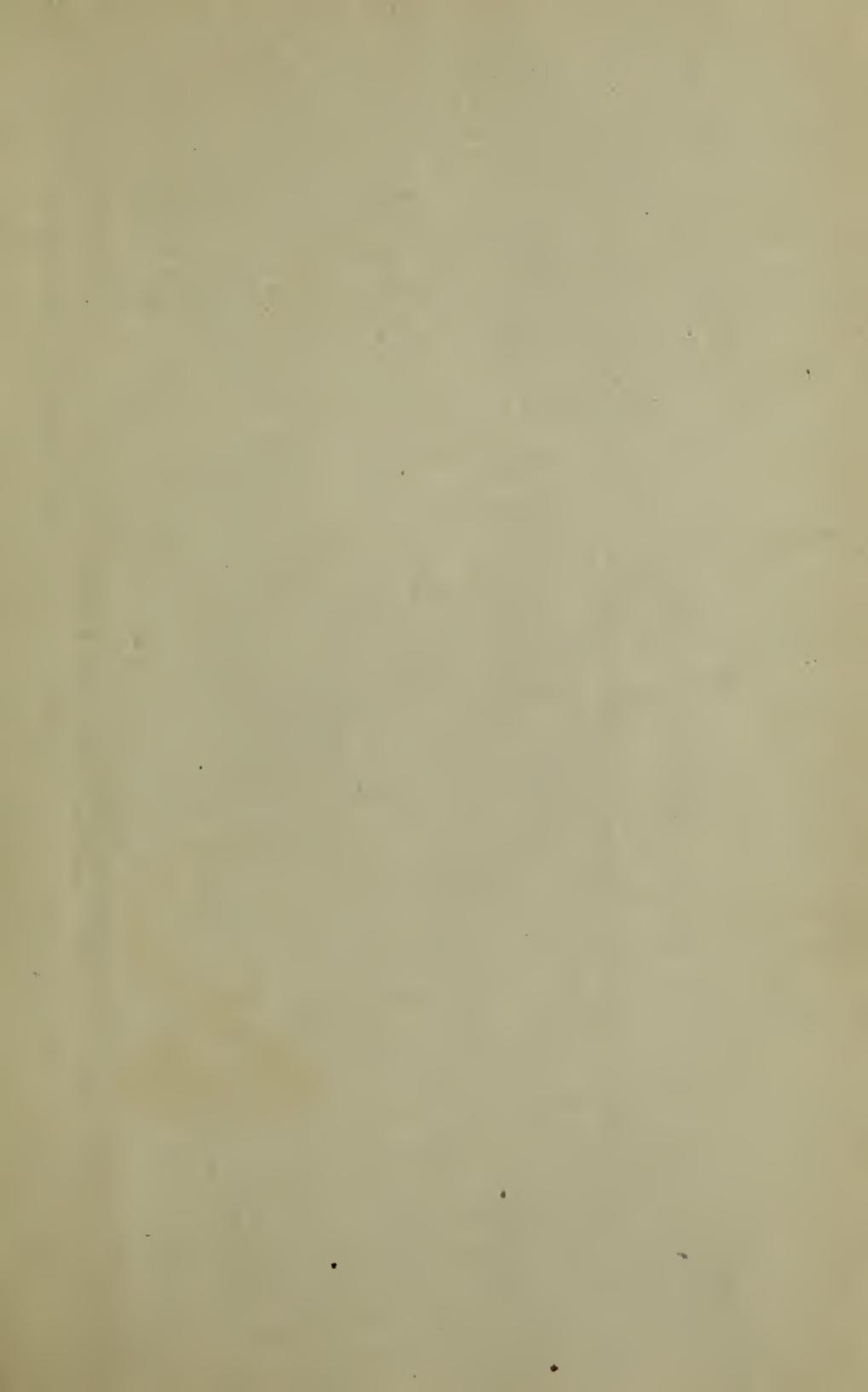
Dear Sir -

New Haven Conn.

July 22. 1885
Send as desired offsets of six

John Fawcett meeting - the only
one printed in red - also two
extracts from town or schools
printed - one privately - the others
by a local society here -

Yours very truly
Daniel C. Eaton



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